Manufacture of Food-Grade Jute Bags From Rice Bran Oil

4090. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Jute Industries Research Association has developed a special technology based on Rice Bran Oil to manufacture Food-Grade Jute Bags for packaging edible items;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that only 17 out of 70 Jute Mills have the facility to use Rice Bran Oil to produce Food-Grade Jute bags; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to ensure that only Food-Grade Bags are manufactured as bags supplied for packing edible items for the domestic market at present are totally Non-Food-Grade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) "Foodgrade" is a commercial term used for "hydrocarbon free" jute bags developed specifically for packaging coffee, cocoa and shelled nuts to meet the specific requirements of these industries. Jute bags with prescribed quantity of Jute Batching Oil (JBO) are internationally used and are actively traded. Jute packaging materials used in India conform to relevant BIS standards which is the designated body in India to set such standards. A.Twill/B. Twill bags used in India conform to the BIS specification which provides a maximum of 8% oil contents. However, Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified permitting use of 3% Non-halogenated hydrocarbons in manufacture of "ECOMARK" Hessian and Sackings. The Jute Industry has been directed to restrict the use of JBO to maximum 3% in manufacture of Hessian and Sackings.

Non-Food-Grade Bags

4091. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Food-Grade Bags, which are health hazardous are being supplied by the Jute Manufacturers for packaging edible items for domestic consumption; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to stop such hazardous practice, which will have far-reaching consequences on the Indian populace, the details thereof ?